Social forestry in Andhra Pradesh

1131. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount proposed to be spent for social forestry in Andhra Pradesh for last three years;

(b) whether there is any monitoring agency to monitor the work relating to the plantation and whether any records of death or survival of plants are kept; and

(c) the details of States which are doing excellent work in social forestry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) As per the information made available by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, the amount spent for social forestry in the last three years is Rs. 3523.32 lakhs.

(b) Yes, Sir. The State Forest Department at State Level, the District Social forestry Committee headed by the District Collector at district level and Village Forest Protection Committees (Joint Forest Management Committees) at village level monitor and review the plantation programmes under the supervision of the Gram Sabhas. In addition, at the national level independent agencies/experts undertake sample evaluation of plantations for survival in 50 selected districts of the country every year under 20 Point Programme.

(c) States like Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Manipur, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand have been rated as very good for area covered under plantation and seedlings planted under 20 Point Programme during 2007-08.

Unseen health hazard

1132. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large population of Delhi and surrounding areas is being exposed to an unseen health hazard *i.e.* lead in drinking water;

(b) if so, whether Government is also aware that a toxic heavy metal found in batteries, paints and automobile exhaust has been found in ground water samples across city;

(c) if so, whether Government has collected samples, tests done about the toxicity of ground water; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (d) Information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.